

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 00471 120844Z
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 HEW-06 /022 W
-----120851Z 014846 /16

R 120831Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4670

UNCLAS TOKYO 0471

FOR OES/APT/BMP
DEPT. PASS TO DHEW/OIH; DHEW/NIH/NCI MR. ROBERT S. TOWNSEND

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BTIO, OSCI, JA
SUBJECT: KOBATA CONTRACT

1. THE FACT THAT WE HAVE NOT REPORTED ON THE STATUS OF THE PROPOSED KOBATA CONTRACT FOR THE PAST FOUR MONTHS IS NOT AN INDICATION OF LACK OF ACTIVITY WITHIN THE GOJ ON THIS SUBJECT. RATHER, THE LAPSE IN REPORTING ONLY REFLECTS CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION AND INDECISION WITHIN GOJ ON HOW TO PROCEED. WE LEARNED SOME TIME AGO THAT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION HAD GONE TO GREAT EXPENSE TO HAVE ENTIRE CONTRACT, INCLUDING BOILER PLATE, TRANSLATED INTO JAPANESE FOR STUDY BY LEGAL EXPERTS. BECAUSE OF UNFAMILIAR TERMINOLOGY, TRANSLATION WAS CHECKED BY SUCCESSION OF OFFICIALS WHO WERE CONSIDERED

EXPERT IN ENGLISH. ALL OF THIS REQUIRED INORDINATE AMOUNT OF TIME.

2. STARTING ABOUT ONE MONTH AGO, WE HEARD ON HIGHLY INFORMALS BASIS FROM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT REVIEW OF CONTRACT WAS PROVING TO BE FAVORABLE AT WORKING STAFF LEVEL IN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. 2(MOFA HAS BEEN EXERTING CONSIDERABLE LEVERAGE ON MOE TO APPROVE CONTRACT, OR AT LEAST TO ACT

EXPEDITIOUSLY ON IT).

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3. LATEST, AND MOST ENCOURAGING, DEVELOPMENT OCCURRED ON JANUARY 11, WHEN WE WERE INFORMED BY SATO, RESEARCH TRANTS DIVISION, MOE, THAT STAFF REVIEW OF CONTRACT HAS BEEN ESSENTIALLY COMPLETED AND THAT SOME POINTS REQUIRING FURTHER EXPLANATION OR RESOLUTION WILL BE PRESENTED TO EMBASSY AFTER JANUARY 20. THIS DATE IS SET ON BASIS THAT MOE STAFF NOW

FULLY OCCUPIED WITH FINAL PREPARATION OF JFY 1977 NATIONAL BUDGET UNTIL THAT TIME.

4. THIS NEWS IS MOST ENCOURAGING TO US. WE WERE UNDER IMPRESSION THAT RESISTANCE TO AWARD OF CONTRACT COULD WELL COME FROM WORKING LEVEL AT MOE. SINCE IT IS AT THIS LEVEL THAT CONTINUITY OF PREVIOUS RESISTANCE WOULD BE FOUND PRIMARILY. IMAMURAN DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF MOE DIVISION OF SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, ALREADY HAD EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL SUPPORT OF CONTRACT IN PRINCIPLE. ALTHOUGH QUESTIONS TO BE RAISED BY MOE MAY PROVE TO BE TOUGH OR EVEN IMPOSSIBLE TO RESOLVE, AT LEAST THERE APPEARS TO BE MOVEMENT IN DIRECTION OF ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT AND NOT OUTRIGHT REJECTION. WE WILL REPORT PROMPTLY WHEN GOJ OFFICIAL RESPONSE IS RECEIVED.

HODGS

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 12-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3611009
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KOBATA CONTRACT
TAGS: BTIO, OSCI, JA
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